

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 18 APRIL 2016

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

VARIATION OF STREET TRADING CONSENTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE STADIUM OF LIGHT

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To request the Committee to vary the conditions which specify the periods of validity of current street trading consents in respect of locations in a designated area in the vicinity of the Stadium of Light and to impose a condition with the same effect upon any such consents issued in the future.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION (RECOMMENDATION)

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to agree that the conditions which specify the periods of validity of current street trading consents relating to locations in a designated area in the vicinity of the Stadium of Light are varied to indicate that the consents are not valid upon days when international football games are played at the Stadium of Light and to impose a condition with that effect upon any such consents issued in the future.

3.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Committee will be aware that certain streets in the vicinity of the Stadium of Light (referred to in this report as being located within the “designated area”) have been designated as ‘consent streets’ under the above-mentioned Act. Any person wishing to trade on those streets requires the consent of the Council. The designated area for the purposes of this report comprises those streets currently designated for street trading purposes in accordance with the above-mentioned Act which are located in the area bounded by the North bank of the River Wear, North Bridge Street and Southwick Road.
- 3.2 The Committee, at its meeting on 11 May 2009, adopted a policy, following advice upon matters of safety received from the Council’s Traffic and Road Safety Section and the Development Manager, of refusing applications for street trading consent in the vicinity of the Stadium of Light on days when there are to be high profile non-football events such as concerts at the stadium unless an applicant could demonstrate exceptional reasons where a departure from the policy would be in the interest of the public.
- 3.3 On 27 May 2016 a high profile football match between England and Australia is being staged at the Stadium of Light. The Council, under the auspices of its Special Events Safety Advisory Group (SESAG), is seeking to build upon the successful and safe organization of concerts in planning the management of this high profile football match. The SESAG considers, as with concerts, that the absence of street trading in the vicinity of the stadium on the day of the

international game will play a valuable role in ensuring the safety of the spectators; particularly given that many spectators will be unfamiliar with the environs of the stadium.

- 3.4 Comments on this matter have been received from the Paul Baxter, Building Control Manager and Chair of the SESAG, who advises as follows:

'The designated area is an area which attracts high volumes of pedestrian movement both before and immediately after the event. Because the footpaths are unable to contain this increase in capacity the overspill causes pedestrians to use the carriageway to continue their journey, a fact recognised by the need to close two lanes of northbound carriageway on Wearmouth Bridge at the end of every football match and special event at the Stadium of Light to allow for the mass movement from Sheepfolds onto the bridge.

Clearly this movement is compounded and made more difficult by the locating of street traders at various points along the route both from the point of physical obstruction caused by the vehicle and also by the queuing around the vehicle.

The potential dangers have been previously been recognised by the Regulatory Committee. The refusal by committee of applications for street trading on public highway within the designated area, on the days when Concerts are held. The introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders across the Sheepfolds area was a further attempt to close down vehicular movement both in bringing in to the area the trading vehicle and also movements associated with the restocking of the vehicle as well as preventing general parking in the area.

Therefore from a safety perspective I would support the recommendation to amend the policy.'

- 3.5 Northumbria Police concur with the view of Mr. Baxter stated above.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 In light of the comments above, the Committee is recommended to vary the conditions upon the street trading consents currently granted in respect of locations in the designated area in order to prevent such trading upon the days of international football matches at the stadium and to impose a condition with the same effect upon any such consents issued in the future.

5.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 5.1 To help to ensure the safety of persons attending international football matches at the Stadium of Light.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 None submitted.

7.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 None.

8.0 GLOSSARY

SESAG – Special Events Safety Advisory Group.

9.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

9.1 None.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.